new hydrocarbon finds were made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.(ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and private/joint venture companies in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tripura.

(b) The estimated balance recoverable oil and gas reserves in the country as on 1.4.2004 are 1658.33 Million Metric Tonnes(MMT). Reserve estimation for 2004-05 is under finalisation.

(c) Based on present day geological knowledge and assessment of prospectivity, the Himalayan foot-hills do have the possibility of finding hydrocarbons, however, no commercial strike has so far been made in this region.

Strike by petroleum dealers

4285. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of All India Petroleum Dealers called for closure of all petrol pumps in the country from midnight of April 17 to MidnightofApril 18,2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the major demands of the petroleum dealers; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Federation of All India Petroleum Traders (FAIPT) called for a closure of all petrol pumps in the country from midnight of 17 April, 2005 to midnight of 18 April, 2005. However, during this period all company owned company operated (COCOs) and Jubilee retail outlets were in operation to meet customer demand.

The major demands raised by FAIPT include increases in dealer commissions and allowances, uniform tax rates on petrol and diesel throughout the country and linking of commissions to the retail prices of the products.

(d) The issues raised by FAIPT are under consideration of the Government.

Import of crude from Saudi Arabia

4286. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: